

Acts & Facts



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CRACKS ARE WIDENING IN EVOLUTION'S DAM!

by John D. Morris



Evolution rules in public school classrooms, and has done so for decades. Even despite the fact that many favorite evolution arguments in the textbooks are known to be false, and others are downright frauds, evolution has enjoyed total control. State education laws and national teaching standards mandate that it be taught exclusively, even denying the existence of alternate scientific theories of origins. Evidence which doesn't fit evolution cannot enter the classroom, and students who object are often humiliated before their classmates and persecuted at grade time. But things are beginning to change. Evolution's dam is starting to crack. Soon its stranglehold on education may loosen.

Please don't jump to the wrong conclusion. Biblical creation will not replace evolution in public school science classes. The courts have decisively ruled that "religion" doesn't belong in public schools. However much it is true that creation was in public schools in years gone by and however much the founding fathers of our country and its education system intended for it to be there, in the present climate it will not be re-introduced. It only does harm to try.

But evolution is religion also! This fact has been well documented in these pages and in secular sources as well. The religion of evolution doesn't belong there either. Our science classrooms should return to teaching science, not history, or

philosophical (religious) views about the past. Evolution, with its view of origins—where we come from, who we are, where we're going—doesn't belong in the science classroom. Nor does its view of morals as rising from animal instincts, nor its low view of human life. Yet evolution has seized total control of our schools and, to a large extent, the worldview of our students. This ought not to be.

The first major crack in evolution's dam appeared in August, 1999, when the Kansas State Board of Education voted to reject new teaching guidelines following recommendations handed down by a national educational "elite". These were even more aggressively evolutionary than those in years past. Several professors, educators, and concerned citizens had worked with the school board to propose a new set, one which allowed the evidence, pro and con, into class, encouraging critical thinking skills. These guidelines were adopted, setting off a firestorm of criticism from evolutionists worldwide. Soon "experts" were pouring into Kansas advocating the removal from the school board of those who allowed evolution to be questioned, and large amounts of outside money poured into the coffers of opposition candidates. The following November, evolutionists regained control and reversed the decision. Now Kansas schools are more evolutionary than ever.

But the dam had sprung a leak. Perhaps it had been temporarily plugged, but soon other states and other school boards began considering what they could do to improve science education and remove religious education from the science classroom. Since that time major efforts have occurred in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Michigan, California, Indiana, Washington, Alabama, Connecticut, Hawaii, and probably others. In each case, evolution losses have not been dramatic. Often the same group of evolution devotees rallied to its defense.

Meanwhile, creation organizations, ministry and research continued to flourish. The Institute for Creation Research, in particular, continued to educate people on the scientific bankruptcy of evolution and the strong support for creation. ICR is not a political organization, nor does it lobby school boards or support candidates. We do provide information and counsel when we can, as we did in Kansas and many other states, but we focus on education, not legislation, feeling that an informed citizenry will win in the long run. And we have seen a tremendous ground swell of opposition to naturalistic evolution and a desire to see better education with less "religion" result from our efforts.

Creationist organizations haven't done it alone, of course. A recent major player is the "Intelligent Design" movement. This group contains quite a few highly placed scientists and philosophers. They do not claim to be a Christian movement, but are decidedly anti-naturalistic. They articulate with power the religious underpinnings of evolution and the bankruptcy of its arguments. In many ways this is a better fit for the public schools, since it is scrupulously non-religious and pro good science teaching.

As a side note, ICR is not against the Intelligent Design movement. We are not part of it, for we are a group of scientists

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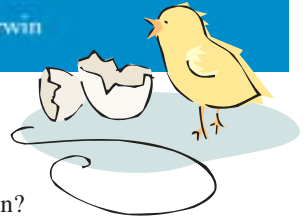
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THE EGG/CHICKEN CONUNDRUM

The recurring challenge in the evolutionary community revolves around which came first—the egg or the chicken? Creationists, using the Scriptures as our foundation, see the chicken as being created first, followed by egg production. But there are serious problems on the secular side.

Replication is regarded as a characteristic feature of living cells, and in no known organism can it take place without the involvement of both nucleic acids and proteins. This interdependence between nucleic acids and proteins gives rise to what has been called the “chicken and egg” problem: in evolutionary terms, which of the two came first, or could they have evolved together? From the early days of the debate there has been disagreements: Haldane believed the gene had primacy, whereas Oparin considered the process to have been more interactive. Even today, the answer is by no means obvious.¹

In 1996 biochemist Michael Behe published a blockbuster entitled *Darwin’s Black Box*. The crux of this fascinating book is that life—seen specifically in the single cell (i.e., Darwin’s “black box”)—is enormously intricate, having what Behe calls “irreducible complexity.” He discusses, for example, the biochemistry of vision and blood clotting—showing a sophisticated cascade of biochemical events—each dependent on the previous reaction. Behe uses an analogy of a mousetrap showing that all parts must be present and functioning in order to catch the mouse. Just so, all compounds must be in place and functioning in our cells so that we may see and that our blood will clot, not to mention a myriad of other functions.

As expected, the evolutionary community panned Behe’s book. But with all their vitriol Behe’s basic premise not only stands, but has been unintentionally “updated” by two evolutionists in a prestigious publication:

Domain shuffling aside, it remains a mystery how the undirected process of mutation, combined with natural selection, has resulted in the creation of thousands of new proteins with extraordinarily diverse and well-optimized functions. This problem is particularly acute for tightly integrated molecular systems that consist of many interacting parts, such as ligands, receptors, and the downstream regulatory factors with which they interact. In these systems it is not clear how a new function for any protein might be selected for unless the other members of the complex are already present, creating a molecular version of the ancient evolutionary riddle of the chicken and the egg.²

Riddle indeed! This riddle of life can only be solved by the Creator of life.

1. Palmer, *Controversy—Catastrophism & Evolution*, Kluwer Academic, 1999, p. 266.
2. Thornton and DeSalle, Genomics meets phylogenetics, *Annual Review of Genomics and Human Genetics*, 2000, p. 64.



ICR Northern Arizona Loop Tour

Zoologist Frank Sherwin along with retirees Ed and Eileen Gross, toured the beautiful and rugged environs of northern Arizona including churches in Kingman, Prescott, Flagstaff and Show Low. More than once, pastors and some in the congregation said how they appreciated ICR coming to churches that would otherwise be unable to have a weekend seminar.

Interest was high as people heard the compelling case for creation, dinosaurs and the Flood, and the legion of problems associated with Darwinism. Frank also shared how believers can know why they believe what they believe (I Peter 3:15) when it comes to the vital issue of origins. Many realized that this is a spiritual battle, and so armed themselves with a variety of creation science books and prepared to do diplomatic battle in the free marketplace of ideas: our public schools. One pastor in particular, Steve Hair of Show Low, sent out over 70 invitations to area public school teachers to have a free breakfast and hear Frank both speak and answer questions regarding the scientific case for creation.

Lakeside, California

On March 1, Calvary Chapel of Lakeside hosted a youth outreach and concert that was organized by two employees of ICR, Lalo Gunther and David Lucas. The outreach consisted of four music groups and messages by the two ICR employees. David shared his testimony and Lalo gave a message entitled "The Truth That Sets You Free." The out-reach was attended by over 500 young people and about twenty came to know Jesus Christ as Savior. We praise God for the ministry opportunities that He has given to all of ICR's employees!

Bristol, Tennessee

On February 22–24, Dr. John Morris joined with creation advocate Mike Vallie for a series of meetings at the Poplar Ridge Christian Church. Each speaker gave a lecture on Friday night, at a prepared dinner on Saturday night, (Pastor Roland Whitmore was the main cook!) and for the morning worship service on Sunday.

Mike Vallie has made himself available to churches in the area for creation ministry and God has blessed. Morris' Saturday address assumed that most in attendance knew something of creation, and explained the "Vision of ICR". He talked about research projects under way and his vision to reach an increasingly secularized America.

Eastern Tennessee is well stocked with creation speakers. Long time friends of ICR, Dr. Clay Brinson and Jim Gardner also have built an effective ministry, and helped prepare the ground for the meetings and helped host the meetings as well.

Simi Valley, California and Las Vegas, Nevada

Two virtually identical "Case for Creation" seminars occurred recently on February 15 and 16 in Simi Valley, California, and again on March 8 and 9 in Las Vegas, Nevada. In both seminars the two brothers Dr. John Morris and Dr. Henry Morris III each presented the same three lectures.

The only difference was the video presented on Saturday afternoon at Las Vegas. *Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution*, produced by well-known creation speaker Dr. Jobe Martin; it shows how evolution is totally unable to account for the many design features in animals. One 7th grade student and her mom decided to do her science fair project on the giraffe after seeing this wonderful video.

No video was used in Simi Valley, because this rapidly growing church has two church services on Saturday night

and two more on Sunday morning. The church is heavily populated by young professionals working in the computer field. As expected, they had lots of questions. A tired but gratified Dr. John Morris drove home Sunday evening.

In Las Vegas, there was no Sunday speaking as Dr. John Morris had to return and preach twice at the Grace Brethren Church of San Diego that morning. ☪



A delightful "Back to Genesis" seminar was held March 15–17 at the central California city of Castro Valley. A group of creation advocates at the Redwood Chapel sponsor a major creation seminar there every three or four years. This was the third time that Mr. Bob Olsson and Mr. Chuck Nelson chaired the committee to bring ICR to the community.

ICR president Dr. John Morris was joined by Doug Phillips for the weekend entitled "Defending the Faith". It all started with school assemblies on Friday reaching 2700 young people. Students in the lower grades were treated to "Marty" (i.e., Mr. Kim Elmore) who is featured in the "Marty" video adventure series. In the afternoon session 1200 heard Dr. Morris relate his experiences on Mt. Ararat in search of Noah's Ark.

The main seminar ministered to around 700 adults learning how to defend the faith using creation information. It all came together when Dr. Phillips told how he had been stopped in San Antonio on the way to the airport. An unkempt, long-haired, tattooed, biker-dude called out "Hey you, come over here". Most may have hurriedly left, but Phillips joined the man to hear him ask, "Tell me, why is there so much bad stuff going on? Why do bad things always happen?"

Doug's gracious answer was directly from "Back to Genesis" thinking. "It wasn't always that way. God created things 'very good' in the beginning, but man rejected God's authority—he sinned. The penalty for sin involves pain and suffering and death for all of creation, especially man for his own sins. But there's a solution. God sent his only begotten Son to Earth, to live a sinless life for whom no death penalty was needed. Thus He could die as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind." And before it was over, there on the sidewalk, the man and his girlfriend repented of their own sins and asked the Father for forgiveness based on Christ's work on the cross. ☪

CREATIONIST BOOK HELPED CHANGE THE CENTURY

The Genesis Flood, co-authored by Dr. John Whitcomb and Dr. Henry Morris and published in 1961, has gone through more than 40 printings. It has recently been recognized as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century, having been included in the recent book *100 Christian Books That Changed the Century*, (Revell Publishing Co., 2001), by



William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. The authors conclude their writeup on the book with the summary: "The creation science movement now has a substantial presence in the fields of science and education, all stemming from the influential book by Whitcomb and Morris." ☪

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HONOR AND TRIBUTE

*“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s;
and unto God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21).*

Every culture in the world understands their civil responsibility to those in higher authority. What has escaped most people—even many Christians, is that the *HIGHEST* authority is the Creator and Owner of all things. That is why Jesus Christ told us to do both: give to “Caesar” what belonged to him and to God what belonged to Him.

God deserves, and we are responsible to give *HONOR* to Him.

Several forms of “honor” are spoken of in the Scriptures: trust, love, obedience, etc., but we must not neglect to *“honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase”* (Proverbs 3:9). It is this *PERSONAL* “rendering” that seems to bring the most challenging pain—both to those who only render “taxes” to the government and to those who should render “tribute” to God.

God is clear about “rendering” a portion of our wealth to Him.

The New Testament is very specific that “every one of” us (I Corinthians 16:2), indeed, “every man according as he purposeth in his heart” (II Corinthians 9:7) is to give of his resources to our Lord. We are further told that it is to be “as God hath prospered him” (I Corinthians 16:2) and that it be “out of that which ye have” (II Corinthians 8:11). In more modern terms, we are to give proportionately (a percentage) of what we earn or possess. The only percentage tribute ever taught in Scripture is the tithe—10% of our “increase.”

What’s the Christian to do?

While not specifically demanded of the Christian, many view the tithe as a starting place for our thinking. We have both the obligation to give and the opportunity to give more. We are to give *cheerfully* (Acts 20:35; II Corinthians 9:7), *lovingly* (John 3:16; II Corinthians 8:8–9), *expectantly* (Luke 6:38 and II Corinthians 9:10–11), and *sacrificially* (Mark 12:41–44 and Mark 14:3–9). Our gifts should be directed to God-glorifying and Bible-honoring churches and ministries.

Can ICR help?

If we can help in your financial planning and thinking, please contact us.

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